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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 20 July 1948

SUBJECT Soviet Demands on Austrian Trade Ministry

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25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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25X1A

- 24.2 ✓ 1. After the meeting of the Austrian Council of Ministers, Trade Minister Kolb cancelled his appointment for 14 July 1948 with General Kulagin, chief of the Economic Division of the Soviet Element, ACA. Instead, Kolb, on 15 July, sent a Ministry of Trade representative to talk with Captain Potym, special deputy to Kulagin on transport matters.
- 252.2 17M
- 784.82 17M/c
- 784.1 17M
- 251.222 17M/c
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2. Potym repeated the Soviet demand on the Trade Ministry for a complete list of all the machinery which was produced and allocated during the past quarter of 1948, including the figures for each individual firm which produced or received machinery. This is not the usual practice of the Austrian Trade Ministry, which had planned to draw up a list of the machinery received by provinces and not broken down by individual firms. [REDACTED] the ultimate aim of the Soviet Element is to prove that USIA did not receive its proper share of the allocations.
3. In addition, Potym demanded the plan for the next quarter's allocations. When told that no such plan was envisaged, since the Ministry intended to lift all controls on machinery, Potym called the proposed step illegal, declaring that only the Council is authorized to lift controls. [REDACTED] The foregoing is, in effect, a correction of the second sentence in [REDACTED] which, received in garbled form, was interpreted to imply that the Soviets had agreed to the lifting of controls on machinery.) Potym added that if the Trade Ministry failed to comply by presenting a detailed list for the past quarter and for the forthcoming quarter, he would cut off all transport certificates for the Austrian Government.
- 25X1A
- 25X1A
4. The representative of the Trade Ministry stated that the Ministry would probably comply, but that it would take considerable time for the Ministry to write to all machinery firms in Austria.
5. Potym set no time limit but stated that, in the firm expectation of the requested report, he would lift the recent restrictions on transport certificates and would review the pending applications for such certificates.

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